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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9278
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8729
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2545
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S-CHINA RELATIONS,
RUSSIA, AND UKRAINE

11. LEAD STORIES: There were no papers on Monday morning because of a press holiday. Top stories covered by broadcasters included reports on Japan Airlines' intention to maintain its alliance with American Airlines.

12. "Chinese Wary about Criticism of Beijing as Weak-Kneed" On China's strong reaction to President Obama's intention to meet with the Dalai Lama later this month, a Beijing correspondent with the liberal Mainichi wrote (2/7): "The U.S. arms sale to Taiwan and the spat over Google are additional sources of conflict. By demonstrating an unusually hard line toward the U.S. ahead of the planned opening of the People's National Congress on March 5, the Chinese government appears to be trying hard to prevent domestic anti-American sentiment from turning into criticism claiming that it is 'weak-kneed.'"

13. "New Security Doctrine Reveals Rivalry with NATO" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri stated from Moscow (2/7): "Russian President Medvedev has approved a new military doctrine, revealing his administration's policy of developing an army that can counter military threats posed by NATO. With a recent military clash with Georgia in mind, the doctrine reflected Moscow's concern about military buildup by its neighbors and displayed its posture of mobilizing its armed forces in the name of 'protecting the safety of Russian nationals abroad.' This demonstrated Russia's determination to maintain its former republics as part of its 'sphere of influence.'"

14. "Democracy Being Tested in Presidential Election in Ukraine" The conservative Sankei reported from Kiev (2/7): "Concerns are mounting that the democratization in Ukraine brought on by the 'Orange Revolution' in

2004, including freedom of speech and fair elections, may suffer a setback following the presidential election.... Ukraine has been viewed as one of the most successful cases of democratization among the countries surrounding Russia. The presidential race is a test of whether the democratization brought about by the 'color revolutions' is taking root in the former republics of Russia."

ROOS